March 24, 2011

Dear Journal,

I have been working with the IU students for about 3 or 4 weeks now every other day during my study hall block.  I really enjoy it. When I first started I was a little nervous because I wasn't sure how the students would react to a new face in the classroom, but I wasn't scared because I knew they were just teenage kids. The first kid that noticed me was a girl named Anisha. She kind of pulled on my arm to tell me that she wants me to sit next to her. It was really sweet. My first day there I helped with morning meeting, lunch and gym. Morning meeting was easy for me to do because I just had to carry around a button and say “talk to me”, the kids would press the button and that was kind of their voice. The first day I did lunch, I was a little nervous because I didn’t know how lunch was going to go or if I was going to have to feed anybody. But it wasn’t like that at all. Lunch is really easy and I love eating lunch with them. The only thing I really have to do is get lunches for some of the kids and cut up their food. I can handle that. The first day I sat with them during lunch my peers saw and the kind of looked at me funny as they walked past. They came to me later and asked why I was sitting there and I said it’s for my senior seminar project, but I don’t care what they think, I even sit there when I’m not doing community service. Gym was the most challenging for me on my first day because I didn’t know what to do. Some of the kids lack motor skills or hand-eye coordination. I ended up bouncing a ball with one of the girls and taking turns pushing the other kids in their wheelchairs. After my first day I got more comfortable, the teachers taught me to program the speaker and how to use different tools that help the kids talk. I enjoy more and more each day because I learn something new about each of the kids. Each one of them is unique in their own way and brings something different to the classroom environment. I’m always so excited to go back the next day.